

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-3 are amended by the present amendment. Support for amended Claims 1-3 can be found in the original specification, claims and drawings. No new matter is added.

In the Office Action, the title is objected to as not descriptive; and Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Mearns et al. (U.S. Pat. 6,863,161, herein Mearns) in view of Hida et al. (JP 11228046, herein Hida).

In response to the objection to the title, the title is amended to conform to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.72(a). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to the title be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects Claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Mearns in view of Hida. In response to this rejection, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent Claim 1 recites novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references.

Amended independent Claim 1 recites, in part, an elevator supervisory system comprising:

a supervisory server configured to manage operating condition data, car interior video data and abnormality data of an elevator in association with one another; and

a supervisory terminal device and a monitor that are connected to said supervisory server through a network,

wherein said operating condition data comprises data in which ***a car position of said elevator and an operating condition representative of normality/abnormality thereof are recorded together*** with date and time information at predetermined time intervals,

said car interior video data comprises data in which videos of the interior of a car of said elevator ***related to said operating condition data*** are recorded,

said supervisory server manages, upon occurrence of an abnormality in said elevator, said abnormality data, said operating condition data and said car interior video data in association with one another ...

Such a configuration allows for a car position with an abnormality to be promptly determined, since the various car conditions (e.g., car position, operating condition, etc.) are associated with one another. Therefore, a failure recovery process can be carried out promptly without having to access various disparate sources of data to obtain the necessary information regarding the status of the elevator.

Turning to the applied primary reference, Mearns describes a method for remotely monitoring the condition and state of an elevator and for determining its need for maintenance by performing an automatic test run of the elevator car (1) in the elevator shaft (2) to collect data for use in an elevator monitoring process.¹ As described at col. 4, ll. 35-53, Mearns' system includes video cameras 3, 4, 5 provided in connection with the elevator car 1, which are used to collect information for use in the monitoring of the condition and state of the elevator. The elevator car 1 of Mearns also includes a wireless transmitter 6 for transmitting the collected measurement data to a receiver 7, which communicates with an elevator-specific monitoring terminal 8 that sends the measurement data over a communication link to a maintenance center 9 for analysis.

Mearns, however, fails to teach or suggest a supervisory server that manages operating condition data, which includes a car position of said elevator ***and an operating condition representative of normality/abnormality recorded together*** with date and time information, car interior video data and abnormality data of an elevator in association with one another, as recited in amended independent Claim 1.

Instead, as described at col. 5, l. 37 – col. 6, l. 7, for example, Mearns uses the video cameras to detect various operational parameters related to the movement of the elevator car.

¹ Mearns, Abstract.

This data is then analyzed to determine whether the elevator is operating correctly. Thus, Mearns' system is unaware of whether the car is operating correctly (normally) or incorrectly (abnormally) until the results of the video are analyzed to make such a determination. Accordingly, Mearns' system does not manage operating condition data that includes "a car position of said elevator ***and an operating condition representative of normality/abnormality recorded together*** with date and time information", since the system is unaware of any normality/abnormality until the video data is analyzed.

Further, Hida, the secondary reference, appears to depict a configuration in which an operator can see and hear what is happening in an elevator and interact with the occupants. Thus, this reference fails to remedy any of the above noted features directed to managing "operating condition data, car interior video data and abnormality data of an elevator in association with one another" as recited in amended independent Claim 1.

Therefore, Mearns, even if combined with Hida, fails to teach or suggest an elevator supervisory system that includes a supervisory server configured to manage operating condition data, car interior video data and abnormality data of an elevator in association with one another, wherein the "operating condition data comprises data in which ***a car position of said elevator and an operating condition representative of normality/abnormality thereof are recorded together*** with date and time information at predetermined time intervals", as recited in amended independent Claim 1.

Moreover, Claim 2 further recites that the "supervisory terminal device and said monitor each have an input section including ***a symbol representative of an abnormality***", and "when an abnormality has occurred in said elevator during display of said operating condition data on said monitor, ***said car interior video data is displayed on said monitor in response to a selection of said symbol***".

The Office Action fails to address this claimed feature, whatsoever. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that Mearns and Hida, neither alone, nor in combination, teach or suggest displaying a symbol on the supervisory terminal representative of an abnormality, and displaying car interior video data on the monitor in response to a selection of the symbol, as recited in dependent Claim 2.

Further, Claim 3 recites that the supervisory terminal device and the monitor each have an input section by which “first date and time information from a start to an end of searching said abnormality data and second date and time information representative of a point in time at which an abnormality occurred in said elevator are designated; abnormality data, operating condition data and car interior video data from said search start to said search end are acquired from said supervisory server through said network in response to a selection designating said first date and time information; and operating condition data and car interior video data at a point in time of occurrence of an abnormality are displayed on said monitor in response to a user's operation of designating said second date and time information.”

Similar to Claim 2, the Office Action fails to explicitly address any of the features recited in dependent Claim 3. Further, Applicant respectfully submits that Mearns and Hida, neither alone, nor in combination, teach or suggest the process recited in Claim 3.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1-3 is patentably distinguishing over the applied references. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early a favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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